

Alabama **broiler** producers marketed 1,052.0 million birds during the 2004 marketing year, an increase of 1 percent from 2003. Cullman was the leading broiler county, followed by DeKalb, Marshall, and Blount. Cash receipts amounted to \$2.41 billion, up 31 percent from the previous year. Alabama ranked third in broiler production behind Georgia and Arkansas. **Commercial broiler hatcheries** in Alabama hatched 1.30 billion chicks for the period October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004, up 6 percent from the previous year. Alabama hatcheries shipped 197.5 million broiler-type chicks to other states, including 56.8 million to Mississippi and 82.6 million to Georgia. Chicks shipped into Alabama numbered 10.8 million. Egg-type hatchery data are not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

During 2004, Alabama's laying flocks produced 2.10 billion **eggs**, down 4 percent from the previous year. Cash receipts from eggs were \$288.0 million, down 2 percent from the previous year. Alabama ranked 13th nationally in egg production. There were 9.24 million **layers** 20 weeks old and older on hand December 1, 2004 compared with 9.33 million in 2003. Cullman County had the largest layer inventory, followed by DeKalb, Marshall, Baldwin, Covington and Randolph counties.

Poultry Facts

- ✕ A cockerel is a male chicken under one year of age; cock or a rooster is a male more than one year old; pullet is a female under one year, and a hen is a female over one year of age
- ✕ A broiler or fryer is a young meat-type chicken that can be cooked tender by broiling or frying and usually weighing between 2 ½ and 3 ½ pounds
- ✕ A roaster is a young meat type chicken that can be cooked tender by roasting and usually weighing 4 pounds or more
- ✕ Laying hens will start to lay eggs at about 20 weeks of age

Annual Egg Production			
Year	Total	Table	Hatching
	Million		
1995	2,703	1,230	1,473
1996	2,481	1,085	1,396
1997	2,499	1,091	1,408
1998	2,507	1,092	1,415
1999	2,450	959	1,491
2000	2,378	794	1,584
2001	2,359	730	1,629
2002	2,281	635	1,646
2003	2,190	589	1,601
2004	2,099	517	1,582

